

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing secure communication of commands from a client to a plurality of hosts via a network server, comprising:
utilizing authentication information and credentials cache information within the network server to facilitate the secure communication, wherein the network server does not store either the authentication information or the credentials cache information;
receiving at least one command from the client;
initiating one or more remote execution processes for processing the at least one command;
transmitting the at least one command to one or more of the hosts via the one or more remote execution processes;
obtaining, from the one or more remote execution processes, data associated with the one or more hosts executing the at least one command;
formatting the data; and
sending the formatted data to the client.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a maximum number of remote execution processes that may run simultaneously.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the initiating includes:
creating no more than the maximum number of remote execution processes to
process the at least one command.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether any of the one or more remote execution processes is running.
5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the obtaining data includes:
waiting for one of the one or more remote execution processes to exit, and
storing data from the one remote execution process.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the formatting includes:
grouping data from each of the one or more remote execution processes, and
serializing the data.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that another remote execution process needs to be initiated; and
initiating the other remote execution process.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the initiating includes:
creating a list of the one or more remote execution processes that have been
initiated.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
setting a time of an alarm event; and
obtaining a status of the one or more remote execution processes on the list when the
alarm event occurs.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the obtaining a status includes:
determining whether the next remote execution process has been running for a
first amount of time, and
terminating the next remote execution process when the next remote execution
process has been running for at least the first amount of time.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the obtaining a status further
includes:
determining whether the next remote execution process has been running for a
second amount of time, the second amount of time being less than the first amount of
time, and
setting a next alarm event when the next remote execution process has been
running the second amount of time.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the obtaining data includes:

storing data from the next remote execution process when the next remote execution process has been running less than the first amount of time but at least the second amount of time.

13. (currently amended) A system for providing secure communication of commands from a client to a plurality of hosts via a network server, comprising:

means for utilizing authentication information and credentials cache information within the network server to facilitate the secure communication, wherein the network server does not store either the authentication information or the credentials cache information;

means for receiving a plurality of commands from the client;

means for initiating one or more remote execution processes for processing the commands;

means for transmitting the commands to one or more of the hosts via the one or more remote execution processes;

means for obtaining data from the one or more remote execution processes in response to the one or more hosts executing the commands; and

means for sending the data to the client.

14. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by one or more processors for performing a method for providing secure communication of messages from a client to a plurality of hosts via a network server, comprising:

instructions for utilizing authentication information and credentials cache information within the network server to facilitate the secure communication, wherein the network server does not store either the authentication information or the credentials cache information;

instructions for acquiring at least one message from the client;

instructions for initiating one or more remote execution processes for processing the at least one message;

instructions for transmitting the at least one message to one or more of the hosts via the one or more remote execution processes;

instructions for obtaining, from the one or more remote execution processes, data associated with the one or more hosts processing the at least one message; and

instructions for transmitting the data to the client.

15. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:

instructions for determining a maximum number of remote execution processes that may run simultaneously.

16. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions for initiating include:

instructions for creating no more than the maximum number of remote execution processes to process the at least one message.

17. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:

instructions for determining whether any of the one or more remote execution processes is running.

18. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the instructions for obtaining data include:

instructions for waiting for one of the one or more remote execution processes to exit, and

instructions for storing data from the one remote execution process.

19. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:
instructions for grouping data from each of the one or more remote execution processes;
and
instructions for serializing the data for transmission to the client.

20. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:
instructions for determining that another remote execution process needs to be initiated;
and
instructions for initiating the other remote execution process.

21. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions for initiating include:

instructions for creating a list of the one or more remote execution processes that have been initiated.

22. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising:
instructions for setting a time of an alarm event; and
instructions for obtaining a status of the one or more remote execution processes on the list when the alarm event occurs.

23. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions for obtaining a status include:

instructions for determining whether the next remote execution process has been running for a first amount of time, and

instructions for terminating the next remote execution process when the next remote execution process has been running for at least the first amount of time.

24. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions for obtaining a status further include:

instructions for determining whether the next remote execution process has been running for a second amount of time less than the first amount of time, and

instructions for setting a next alarm event when the next remote execution process has been running no more than the second amount of time.

25. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the instructions for obtaining data include:

instructions for storing data from the next remote execution process when the next remote execution process has been running less than the first amount of time but at least the second amount of time.

26. (currently amended) A network server which utilizes, but does not store, authentication information and credentials cache information to facilitate secure communication, the network server being in communication with one or more clients and a plurality of hosts, the network server comprising:

a service interface configured to receive a plurality of messages from the clients and transmit data associated with the messages to the clients; and

a parallel execution utility configured to initiate one or more of a plurality of remote execution processes to process the messages from the clients, transmit the messages to one or more of the hosts via the one or more remote execution processes, obtain, from the one or more remote execution processes, data associated with the one or more hosts processing the messages, and provide the data to the service interface.

27. (original) The network server of claim 26, wherein the parallel execution utility is further configured to determine a maximum number of the remote execution processes that may run simultaneously.

28. (original) The network server of claim 27, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to create no more than the maximum number of remote execution processes to process the messages.

29. (original) The network server of claim 26, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to determine whether any of the one or more remote execution processes is running.

30. (original) The network server of claim 29, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to wait for one of the one or more remote execution processes to exit and gather data from the one remote execution process.

31. (original) The network server of claim 26, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to group data from each of the one or more remote execution processes and serialize the data for transmission to the clients.

32. (original) The network server of claim 26, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to determine that another one of the remote execution processes needs to be initiated and initiate the other remote execution process.

33. (original) The network server of claim 26, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to create a list of the one or more remote execution processes that have been initiated.

34. (original) The network server of claim 33, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to set a time of an alarm event and obtain a status of the one or more remote execution processes on the list when the alarm event occurs.

35. (original) The network server of claim 34, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to determine whether the next remote execution process has been running for a first amount of time and terminate the next remote execution process when the next remote execution process has been running for at least the first amount of time.

36. (original) The network server of claim 35, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to determine whether the next remote execution process has been running for a second amount of time less than the first amount of time, and set a next alarm event when the next remote execution process has been running no more than the second amount of time.

37. (original) The network server of claim 36, wherein the parallel execution utility is configured to gather data from the next remote execution process when the next remote execution process has been running less than the first amount of time but at least the second amount of time.